



## NEWS RELEASE

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## Convicted Killer Set to be Arraigned for Allegedly Murdering Woman in East Los Angeles

A man who spent nearly 30 years in state prison for killing his stepmother is set to be arraigned today for allegedly murdering a retired doctor last month, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Timothy Chavira (dob 5/22/63) was charged in case BA483403 with one count of murder along with a special circumstance allegation that he was previously convicted of first-degree murder. He is expected to be arraigned today in Department 30 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

Deputy District Attorney Cynthia Barnes of the Major Crimes Division is prosecuting the case.

On Dec. 7, 2019, Chavira is accused of killing Editha Cruz de Leon, 76, with a sharp object at her home in the 3900 block of North Van Horne Avenue. Chavira was arrested two weeks later in Pasadena.

Chavira was previously found guilty by a jury of first-degree murder for beating and stabbing to death his stepmother in 1986. He was sentenced to 26 years to life in state prison and was released on parole in July 2017.

The defendant faces the death penalty or life in prison without the possibility of parole if convicted as charged. A decision on whether to seek capital punishment will be made at a later date.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department.

### [About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.